

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DCS LAUNCHES TWO INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO CHILD'S DEATH

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Department of Children's Services Commissioner Viola P. Miller today launched two investigations into the death of a 13-month-old child in Smith County, Tenn. Both investigations stem from an August 14, 2004, referral DCS received regarding the child's family. The referral alleged that children in the home were exposed to drugs and were not being adequately supervised.

The first investigation will be conducted by departmental internal affairs and will review the case from the time the referral was received to the time the child sustained injury and subsequently died. Child Protective Services (CPS) specialists will handle the second investigation into systemic and regional protocol regarding CPS referrals.

"The death of this child is tragic, and I am particularly concerned about my department's response to this situation," said Commissioner Miller. "We will conduct a thorough review to determine if DCS could have done anything to prevent this tragedy."

DCS anticipates preliminary results from the two internal investigations in one week, and final results in 30 days. The supervisor responsible for this case has been placed on administrative leave pending results of the internal investigation.

A total of three children are involved in the CPS investigation. The two other children in the home were taken into DCS custody and are currently in the care of a foster family. DCS is working collaboratively with the local law enforcement officials on the CPS investigation.

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